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NEWS RELEASE

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North Kingstown Mathematics Teacher Named 2006 R.I. Teacher of the Year

NORTH KINGSTOWN – Governor Donald L. Carcieri announced today (Nov. 23, 2005) that Barbara Morse, a mathematics teacher at North Kingstown Senior High School, has been named the 2006 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

Ms. Morse, who lives in North Kingstown, has taught in the North Kingstown Schools for nine years, including two years at the Davisville Middle School. She has taught at the high school since 1999, and has been chair of the Mathematics Department for two years.

“Barbara has exhibited a strong devotion to implementing innovative teaching methods that engage each and every student. She’s hardworking, she’s conscientious, and she challenges her students. As a math teacher, Barbara understands the importance of math education for our state’s future,” Governor Carcieri said. “Teachers have a tremendous impact on our students and schools. Without question, Barbara is a shining example for all to follow.”

“I congratulate Barbara Morse today on this high honor,” said James A. DiPrete, Chairman of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “She believes that students – and their teachers – should be lifelong learners, and she constantly encourages her students to explore, experiment, and find learning strategies that are effective for them. A parent from North Kingstown put it well: She is everything great about public education in Rhode Island.”

“Barbara Morse initially became involved in education as a parent volunteer in the North Kingstown schools,” said Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education. “That experience led her to pursue a degree in education – and that led to her successful teaching career. As her colleagues have told us, she is a team-builder who works with teachers and parents and whose main goal is improving student achievement.”

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Ms. Morse is studying for a master’s degree in teaching secondary mathematics at Providence College. The current North Kingstown Teacher of the Year, she was also the winner of the 2005 North Kingstown High School Spirit Award.

“I believe that classrooms should be teacher-led but not teacher-centered,” Ms. Morse said in her application for the Teacher of the Year Award. “Teachers need to provide information, guidance, moral support, and structure, but it is important for the student to take an active role in the learning process.”

As the state teacher of the year, Ms. Morse becomes a candidate to be the 2006 National Teacher of the Year, who will be selected in the spring.

